(b) whether the jurisdiction issue has been sorted out or not;

(c) the overriding factors behind the boycott of the Madras High Court Lawyers; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A permanent Bench of the Madras High Court with five Honourable Judges has been set up at Madurai with effect from 24.7.2004 under the Presidential Order dated 6th July, 2004. The Full Bench is constituted whenever the Division Bench refers matters on important question of law.

(b) The Bench has jurisdiction over the districts of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Madurai, Dindugal, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Sivaganga, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Trichy, Perambalur and Karur.

(c) The transfer of cases relating to the 14 districts from the Principal Bench to the Madurai Bench was the main reason for agitation among a section of lawyers from the Principal Bench at Chennai, However, some lawyers were in favour of establishing the Bench at Madurai.

(d) There is a provision in the Presidential Notification setting up of the High Court Bench at Madurai that the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court may, in his discretion, order that any case or class of cases arising in any of the 14 districts falling under the jurisdiction of Madurai Bench be heard at Chennai.

UNCTAD Meeting at Sao Paulo

*289. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had led a delegation of Members of Parliament to the Eleventh Session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Sao Paulo in Brazil recently;

(b) if so, the stand taken by Government on farm subsidies by the United States;

(c) whether the delegation had impressed upon the need for preferential treatment for developing countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome of the conference and how far the same has been beneficial to the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Farm subsidies by United States was not specifically on the agenda of UNCTAD XI Conference. However, the need for elimination of all export subsidies by developed countries was emphasized by us in our discussions. The negotiated text adopted by the Conference emphasized, among other things, the need for reducations of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies, and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India along with other developing countries group known as G-77 and China, were successful in highlighting the concern of developing countries under the multilateral trading system. India also participated in a G20 meeting, along with countries such as Brazil, China, South Africa, Argentina etc., which was held in parallel to the UNCTAD deliberations. The main theme of the G20 discussions was the need for preferential treatment for developing countries especially in the agricultural sector, in the on-going negotiations of the WTO. The developing countries succeeded in pointing out that the central issue of globalization should be development. It was also acknowledged that there is a need for policy space and policy flexibility for the development strategies of national Governments. It was decided that UNCTAD, which has provided an invaluale forum for advancing the inter-relationship between trade and development, from both the national and international perspective, across the three pillars of its mandate: independent policy analysis, technical assistance and consensus building, should continue its work and provide necessary inputs to the developing countries.

Cultural Heritage of the Country

†*290. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that the cultural heritage of the country is 5000 years old;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.